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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Applicant argues that Hoffberg et al., as modified by Han et al. and Leshem et al., fails to disclose a system and method wherein an overall hierarchical tree is created, and then partial hierarchical trees are created. Next, *within the partial hierarchical tree*, (a) an overall hierarchical tree is created, and then (b) a partial hierarchical tree is created (i.e., (a) and (b) occur again within the partial hierarchical tree already generated). This recursive process repeats within each subtree until there are no more subtrees, as recited in claim 32.

Examiner respectfully disagrees. The combination of Hoffberg et al., as modified by Han et al. and Leshem et al., discloses all of these Claimed elements. Hoffberg et al., column 142 lines 21-26, discloses a pattern recognition system and method comprising an algorithm that generates a tree structure of identified objects. Said algorithm passes results of identified objects to other tree branches for further analysis. This reads on the Claimed creation of the overall hierarchical tree. Han et al., in Claim 31, discloses a system and method comprising a tree data structure for use in mining frequent patterns from a plurality of records further comprising a root, a plurality of nodes linked to said root, the nodes linked to form a plurality of paths, each path corresponding to a record in a database. This is interpreted to read on the Claimed recursive subtrees of the partial hierarchical trees. Han et al. further discloses, in paragraphs 0013 and 0015, a method of recursively constructing trees until a condition is met. This reads on the Claimed repeating subtrees until a condition is met.